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RECENT LITERATURE.

PAGENSTECHER'S GENERAL ZOÖLOGY.¹—The third part of this work was only received during the past summer, and though the fourth part is promised for the present year, we will not wait for its appearance before calling the attention of our readers to what appears to us a most valuable work of reference. It is planned somewhat differently from other zoölogical manuals, being written mainly from the side of comparative anatomy. The first part is divided into three books, the first being introductory, the second treating of the nature of animal bodies in general, this caption including a discussion of individuality and pleomorphism; while the third book treats of the subdivisions of the animal kingdom, with a free discussion of the doctrine of species. The second part appeared in 1877, and treats of the organization and functions of animals, the entire part being devoted to the organs of digestion and nutrition, and of circulation. The third part treats of respiration chiefly from an anatomical point of view, giving in 419 closely printed pages an account of the different modes of breathing in the various groups of animals. Prof. Pagenstecher has evidently done his work carefully. The woodcuts are new and fresh, but often rather too small and indistinct, not quite diagrammatic enough for anatomical drawings, still they are mostly original, involving a large amount of work on the part of the author.

HARVARD LIBRARY CATALOGUE OF SERIALS.²—This most useful publication grew out of the efforts of the author to bring about some degree of coöperation between the different libraries in and about Boston, by which valuable and costly works should not be duplicated, but that each library should aim to complete their series of works in separate departments. As the first step in this important reform was the preparation of a bibliographical list of all scientific serials, whether those now in course of publication or not, the labor was entrusted to Mr. Scudder, who has brought a special aptness and zeal to such work, together with an exactness and care in treatment characteristic of all his writings. As it stands, the volume will be in constant use by the naturalist, since the serial literature of biology and the natural sciences generally has now assumed enormous proportions.

The catalogue comprises a list of the serial publications of each country, the towns or places of publication being arranged

¹*Allgemeine Zoölogie oder Grundgesetze des thierischen Baus und Lebens.* Von H. ALEXANDER PAGENSTECHER. Theil 1-3. Berlin, Verlag von Wiegandt, Hempel & Parey, 1875-1878. 8vo, with 433 woodcuts.

²*Library of Harvard University. Special Publications.* I. Catalogue of Scientific Serials of all Countries, including the Transactions of Learned Societies in the Natural, Physical and Mathematical Sciences. 1633-1876. By SAMUEL H. SCUDDER. Cambridge, Library of Harvard College, 1879. 8vo, pp. 358.

alphabetically under each country. The index is subdivided into an index of towns, of titles and of minor subjects, such as anatomy, anthropology, botany, entomology, geology, &c., &c. A considerable amount of bibliographical information is given under the different titles, of much importance in treating of synonymy. The work will hereafter stand on the shelves of the naturalist's library side by side with Agassiz's *Bibliographia Zoölogiæ*, Engelmann's *Bibliotheca Historico-Naturalis*, Carus and Engelmann's *Bibliotheca Zoölogica*, Hagen's *Bibliotheca Entomologica*, supplementing these valuable works. It is gratifying to notice the appearance of such works as this and Coues' *Bibliography of Ornithology* in this country, as evincing the richness of American libraries in scientific works, and the number of those who use them with discernment.

We have no criticisms to make on the volume, as the arrangement seems to be all that could be desired. Doubtless, errors will be found upon using it, and the compiler invites criticism and the communication of errors, that they may be corrected hereafter. This is the first instance, so far as we now recollect, of the issue of such important and generally useful works by any library, and due credit should be given to the university whose librarian had the public spirit and enterprise to undertake the publication of such an expensive work without a special fund for such purposes.

ZITTEL'S HANDBOOK OF PALÆONTOLOGY.¹—This will, when completed, be without doubt a most useful compendium of the subject, though to be authoritative a work on palæontology should, we think, be written by one who has been more active as a zoölogist than the talented author. The first part begins with a general history of the rise of palæontology and a statement of the subject in general, and the second *lieferung* carries us as far as the Echinodermata, *i. e.*, through the *Cœlenterata*, the latter including the sponges.

We notice that in the first *lieferung*, which was published in 1876, Bathybius is admitted to be an organism, as is the Eozoön.

In the second volume, of which the first *lieferung* has appeared, Prof Schimper treats of the fossil plants, beginning with the Diatoms and nearly completing the account of the ferns. Both authors treat their respective kingdoms alike, *i. e.*, in an almost purely systematic way, diagnoses of the classes, orders and genera being given, often with descriptions of the species.

The illustrations are numerous and usually excellent, but often on too small a scale, a fault of Pagenstecher's work, and of many German books, the woodcuts of Gegenbaur's *Elements of*

¹*Handbuch der Palæontologie.* Unter mitwirkung von, W. PH. SCHIMPER. Herausgegeben von Karl A. Zittel. Band I. Lief. I, $\frac{2}{4}$. Band II. Lief. I. München, 1876-79. 8vo.